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# Worldwide Report

EPIDEMIOLOGY

No. 255



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19 November 1981

## WORLDWIDE REPORT

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## SCIENTISTS DISCUSS TRYPANOSOMIASIS PREVENTION RESEARCH

### Vaccine Research

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 23 Oct 81 p 3

[Article by Margaret Khonje]

[Excerpt]

RESEARCH which may lead to development of vaccines against animal trypanosomiasis and human sleeping sickness is being conducted in several international laboratories.

Scientists from research institutions in Uganda, Kenya, Nigeria, Europe and USA, yesterday briefed the ongoing 17th meeting of the International Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control, on progress made towards development of these vaccines.

But the future is not very near for immunisation of livestock and human beings against the tsetse originating diseases.

The scientists are yet to solve the puzzle on a major step in the process of producing vaccines — the structure of antigens.

In the case of trypanosomiasis, these antigens (substances released by trypanosomes) escape any possible vaccine by changing their chemical make-up. Thus making it difficult for antibodies to "crack down" the antigens.

However, the scientists believe they would soon corner the tricky antigens through the various approaches they are following.

At Yale University and at the Molecular Biology Institute, Professors Richards and Hamers are exploring the nature of these antigens' "coats" which if known may enable scientists to interfere with the antigens' chemistry.

At the Nairobi-based International Laboratory for Animal Diseases (ILRAD), Dr. Hirumi and his colleagues are

putting their efforts on the study of growth phases of the trypanosomes in mammals.

They hope to develop a "super" trypanosome that can respond to a potential vaccine.

And in Uganda, Dr. William Isharasa, a biochemist with the Uganda Trypanosomiasis Research Organization (UTRO), is trying to come up with an antigen that can be used by paramedical personnel in diagnosis of sleeping sickness.

Apparently, sleeping sickness is many times mistaken for other parasitical infections like malaria. And it is most often misdiagnosed when it is accompanied by other illness.

Dr. Isharasa says a simple method to immediately dictate sleeping sickness can be developed in order to reduce intensity of the disease.

Meanwhile, the chief of malaria and other parasitical diseases section of the World Health Organization, Dr. P. de Raedt, has said that even with development of vaccines, the fight against trypanosomiasis and sleeping sickness would have to go on.

"Vaccines are only a complementary to all other anti-trypanosomiasis measures", he said.

Recently, tsetse breeding and trypanosomiasis are controlled by aerial and ground insecticide spraying, bush clearing and development of cleared land.

In addition, scientists are researching for ways of introducing involuntary "birth control" to make tsetse and "abortion" to the female flies.

## Biological Control

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 22 Oct 81 p 3

[Article by Margaret Khonjel]

[Text]

TSETSE fly population may in the future be controlled biologically if the present laboratory research proves applicable on the field.

Several research institutions within and outside Africa have over the years been studying the biological make up of the tsetse in an attempt to find just how reproduction and growth of the fly can be disrupted.

The researcher's main objectives are to confuse the tsetse's reproductive system of both the male and female through use of manmade chemicals.

Some of this international research was discussed yesterday at the ongoing 17th meeting of the International Council for Trypanosomiasis Research and Control (IC-TRC) in Arusha.

The research includes feeding of pregnant tsetse flies on certain chemicals which will induce abortion of tsetse larva (foetus).

Other researches involve use of artificial substances resembling the female tsetse "sex" chemicals topped with sterilizing agents to trap unsuspecting males.

According to the researchers, their laboratory results show that these methods of lowering tsetse breeding are workable but they also agreed with other participants in the meeting that the experiment on tsetse "birth control" will not be easy to apply in the tsetse infested African forests.

For one, these biological tsetse control measures would require financial inputs beyond the reach of many African countries.

At present, tsetse breeding is controlled by use of aerial and ground insecticide spraying. Bushes are also cleared to deny the flies of hiding places.

And so far, experts have not reported any tsetse resistance to the insecticides - as is the case with widely reported mosquito resistance.

But the pro-biological tsetse birth control researchers strongly believe that their research must be strengthened.

"You never know, one of these days, the tsetse may develop resistance to the insecticides" commented one of them.

The meeting continues today.

CSO: 5400/5648



GUYANA, BRAZIL TO COOPERATE IN FIGHTING TROPICAL DISEASES

Georgetown GUYANA CHRONICLE in English 5 Oct 81 p 8

[Text]

BRAZIL and Guyana have pledged to strengthen co-operation in their fight against malaria, yellow fever and chagas — three tropical diseases relatively prevalent on the adjoining borders of the two South American republics.

The two countries decided in two days of discussions in Georgetown to exchange information and to tighten surveillance as initial steps in what is likely to lead to a comprehensive programme on disease control and eradication.

Brazil was represented in the talks, which ended at the Ministry of Health yesterday, by Dr. Marcos Antonio Soares Porto while Guyana was represented by Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Walter Chin.

The two medical specialists met under a Sanitary Agreement on Tropical Diseases signed between Brazil and Guyana in Brasilia last June.

Dr. Chin said his talks with Dr. Porto were "very casual and were conducted in an atmosphere of co-operation and understanding."

Both countries had an interest in malaria, in particular, since they both shared the Roraima border in

which area the disease was endemic, Dr. Chin said.

Brazil and Guyana discussed plans to monitor flights between their two countries in a further effort to prevent malaria from being transmitted from one country to the other, Dr. Chin added.

Dr. Porto and Dr. Chin also discussed the possibilities of exchanging technical medical personnel and developing contact in other areas in the medical field.

On the question of chagas, the two countries also considered the mounting of a serological survey on the prevalence of this disease in their territories, particularly in Guyana's North West Region.

Dr. Porto, who left Georgetown for home over the weekend gave a talk to Guyanese medical personnel Thursday on the topic "The Present Status of Malaria in Guyana."

Prior to his departure Dr. Porto also held discussions with officials of Guyana Malaria Control Services.

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

MEASLES OUTBREAK--Bahia Blanca, 31 Oct (NA)--The local health authorities are concerned over the number of cases of measles even among those persons who have been immunized against it. In addition to 40 cases of measles there have been other cases of scarlet fever and mumps. [Buenos Aires NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1515 GMT 31 Oct 81 PY]

HEPATITIS OUTBREAK--Rio Gallegos, 23 Oct (TELAM)--The health authorities of Santa Cruz Province stated that the hepatitis outbreak which has affected 79 persons is practically under control. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1549 GMT 23 Oct 81 PY]

CSO: 5400/2033

# MOSQUITO-SPREAD ARBOVIRUS ENCEPHALITIS CAUSING CONCERN

## Southward Movement

Canberra THE AUSTRALIAN in English 1 Oct 81 p 3

(Article by Joe Poprzeczny)

[Text]

A DANGEROUS tropical disease, arbovirus encephalitis, is spreading south in Western Australia, carried by mosquitoes.

The virus, which can cause death or brain and muscular damage, has now been reported as far south as Carnarvon, 800km from the main area of infection in the State's Kimberley region and a similar distance north of Perth.

The virus has plagued the region since first settlement, but according to Professor Neville Stanley of the University of Western Australia's department of microbiology, it has been confined to the Kimberleys.

Yesterday Professor Stanley said the high rainfall of the Pilbara and Gascoyne regions south of the Kimberleys

had created an environment allowing the infected mosquitoes to spread south.

The next critical period will be after January when the mosquitoes start breeding.

Since 1974, 27 cases of the disease have been recorded in the north-west of the State.

Professor Stanley said: "Nineteen of these were between 1974 and 1980. Since this year's wet season we have had eight notifications in the State."

First news of the disease spreading south came yesterday when the acting Minister for Health, Mr Laurance, called on the Federal Treasurer, Mr Howard, to exempt insecticides from sales tax.

## STRATEGIC

Mr Laurance said: "The imposition of such

a tax could have a bearing on the use of household insecticides by the average person in the eradication of disease-carrying pests, especially fly-borne diseases.

"It could have a bearing on the prevention of arbovirus encephalitis in the north-west of the State.

"A considerable amount of money had been expended in the Pilbara and Kimberleys on monitoring the disease," Mr Laurance said.

Professor Stanley has been monitoring the virus throughout the State with the use of domestic fowls and chickens distributed at strategic sites.

He started work after the completion of the Ord River dam which has resulted in a bigger population of mosquitoes and wildlife in the Kimberleys.

## Appearance in Northwest

Perth THE WEST AUSTRALIAN in English 2 Oct 81 p 2b

[Text]

Flocks of "sentinel chickens" are being used to fight a virus found in the North of W.A. It is possibly fatal to babies.

Owners in northern towns and stations have agreed to allow their chickens to be tested for traces of Arbovirus encephalitis.

The virus is carried by mosquitoes and most adults have built up an immunity to the disease, according to the Acting Minister for Health, Mr Laurance.

Mr Laurance told the Legislative Assembly that babies were particularly susceptible.

This year's wet season in the North had been particularly severe and the virus had been detected at Carnarvon, and Newman further south than ever before.

Chickens and fowls

were natural carriers of the disease, which occurred when they were bitten by mosquitoes.

They built up an immunity to the virus, which was not transmitted to humans via either bird flesh or their eggs.

People in the North-West had co-operated in the testing programme being conducted by the University of W.A.'s microbiology department in conjunction with the Public Health Department.

Mr Laurance said that there was no known cure for the virus. The only prevention was by mosquito control at personal and public-health levels.

Mr Laurance was replying to a question without notice from Mr B. Sodeman (Lib. Pilbara).

CSO: 5400/7508

BRIEFS

YELLOW FEVER AREAS--The Public Health and Social Security Ministry has determined that there are three yellow fever areas in the country: Chapare, Cochabamba Department; Los Yungas, La Paz Department, and Iquito, Santa Cruz Department. The ministry has also reported that control measures increased progressively during 1979 and 1980 and that 550,014 persons were vaccinated during 1980. [La Paz Radio Illimani Network in Spanish 1700 GMT 29 Oct 81 PY]

CSO: 5400/2033



## BOTSWANA

### BRIEFS

RABIES CASES--Gaborone--An alarming number of confirmed rabies cases had occurred in the Francistown area in northeastern Botswana and one resident had died, the Department of Veterinary Services and Tsetse Fly Control announced in Gaborone yesterday. The department warned that all domestic pets must be vaccinated and confined to their owners' premises. Stray and non-vaccinated animals would be shot.--Ziana-Sapa [Text] [Salisbury THE HERALD in English 5 Nov 81 p 1]

CSO: 5400/5649

## SECOND ANTIPOLIO VACCINATION PHASE SET FOR 24 OCTOBER

Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Oct 81 p 17

[Text] Approximately 3 million children, 5 years of age and under, are to be vaccinated in Sao Paulo against infantile paralysis during the second phase of the vaccination campaign to be held throughout the country on 24 October. A total of 2,038 vaccination stations will be operating in Greater Sao Paulo, 522 of which will be mobile; meanwhile, in the interior of the state 371 new stations were added to those used in the August campaign to take care of the rural population and residents on the outskirts of large urban centers.

The Central Enterprise for Medicines [CEME] was supposed to have sent the Sabin vaccine to Sao Paulo yesterday, but no one at the Secretariat of Health could confirm that this was done. However, according to aides of Interim Secretary Omar Salles de Lima, "the vaccines should be stored tomorrow (today) at the Butanta Institute waiting to be shipped to stations set up throughout the state."

On 24 October, the Secretariat of Health will mobilize 7,414 teams, 1,909 supervisors, at a total of 60,000 persons, who will use 4,647 vehicles, 15 boats, 3 helicopters and 2 planes; they will be further assisted by the Military Police, civilian groups and amateur and CB radio operators. Altogether, this work will be directed by 701 command units and 571 general coordination groups.

### Arcoverde

"There will be no shortage of vaccine for the second phase of the campaign against poliomyelitis," Health Minister Waldir Arcoverde said yesterday at a meeting of secretaries of health of the central west area, convened to evaluate the first phase of the campaign.

Health secretaries Hugo Campos, of Mato Grosso, and Yeda Erse Campos, of Rondonia, told the minister they thought the present campaign would be more difficult as it will coincide with the rainy season. All the secretaries said that they experienced difficulties with fuel shortages during the first phase of the campaign. The most serious criticism was made against the IBGE [Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics] whose figures on polio differed from those of the Ministry of Health. According to Yeda Campos, the rate of vaccination in Rondonia was 90 percent based on figures released by the ministry, but that same rate was reduced to 76 percent after the institute published the results of the census. In the opinion of the secretaries, mistakes of this kind jeopardize the work.

In response, Minister Waldir Arcoverde said: "We must accept IBGE's official figures, since an organization which says it may have a 5 percent error deserves all our confidence." According to the minister, despite all the difficulties, it was the central west area which showed the best results: nine cases of poliomyelitis were reported in the area, but only five were confirmed.

In Brasilia, the National Petroleum Council issued a directive yesterday indicating that gasoline stations throughout the country are to stay open on 24 October, which is Saturday, from 0600 to 1900 hours "to help mobilize the people in the fight against poliomyelitis." The stations may sell any products "on hand," according to the official document.

8568

CSO: 5400/2018

## BRIEFS

**AFRICAN FLY WORRIES EXPERTS--Curitiba--**Experts of the Superintendency of Water Resources and Environment (SUREHMA), an organization of the Parana government, warned yesterday in Curitiba against the danger of a rapid spread into the country's interior of a new type of insect, an African fly, which arrived in Brazil 5 or 6 years ago and can transmit various diseases, among which are poliomyelitis, skin infections and certain kinds of intestinal diseases. SUREHMA is conducting a study on the behavior of that fly to see if it is possible to find a way to combat its principal breeding places and, thus, control its spread. The two varieties of the African fly found in Brazil are the *Chrysomia Chloropyga* and the *Chrysomia Megacephala*, both originating in South Africa. Until 1976, that fly was known only in Africa and southern Europe, where its spread was considered under control due to sanitary measures in urban centers. In that year Prof Darcy Takaki Izutani of the State University of Maringa collected the first specimen of the fly in a garbage deposit in Curitiba. One of the theories advanced by the experts is that the fly had arrived in Brazil in the baggage of Angolan exiles in 1975. During the following years, the fly was encountered in Sao Paulo, Campinas, Santos and, now, in Pernambuco and the interior of Mato Grosso. Some time ago a new site area of spread was discovered in the vicinity of Foz do Rio Amazonas, in Para. The experts believe that the fly has spread in Brazil because of the hot and humid climate and lack of adequate hygienic and sanitation conditions in urban centers. According to what the SUREHMA experts have now been able to ascertain, the major foci of the insect are near Curitiba's metropolitan area and at the garbage dumps and pig pens in the interior of Parana. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 16 Oct 81 p 17] 8568

**MENINGITIS OUTBREAK FEARED--**The death of three children in less than 7 days has left the residents of Andradina worried about the possibility of an outbreak of meningitis in the city. Although the cause of the deaths has not been confirmed, hundreds of mothers waited yesterday for the arrival of a doctor from the Vaccination Center of Rio Preto to vaccinate the children against the disease. Meanwhile, the local Secretariat of Health forbade private vaccination, alleging that "meningitis is a matter of public responsibility and, if an outbreak occurs, only government organizations can come forward and coordinate the campaign." A state of alert began with the death of an infant, Maria Carolina Nascimbem Kenan, little more than a year old, who had a high fever followed by generalized infection. Ana D'Alamarta, the pediatrician who treated her, said she could not arrive at a diagnosis and, suspicious of meningitis, communicated this development to the health center. With the death of two other children, the people's concern increased, but, yesterday, doctors from the city gave their assurance that an analysis of

specimens taken from the second victim did not indicate meningitis. Moreover, the health center informed the people that last year only nine cases of meningitis were reported and this year seven, not counting the last three, considered "only suspected cases." In Dr Jose Salomao's opinion, those figures are "absolutely normal and an outbreak would be considered to exist only if there were one case per 1,000 inhabitants, which, for Andradina, would mean 40 persons attacked by the disease." [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 2 Oct 81 p 17] 8568

STATES STOCK POLIO VACCINE--Brasilia--The Central Enterprise for Medicines (CEME) disclosed yesterday that 29.66 million doses of polio vaccine are now stocked in the states and territories to be used during the second phase of the National Vaccination Campaign. To that total will be added 6 million doses which are left over from the first phase of the campaign. A total of 19.2 million children, through the age of 5 years, will be vaccinated. Rio de Janeiro State is to receive 2.7 million doses. The largest quantity (5.7 million) was allocated to Sao Paulo State, followed by Minas Gerais with 3.45 million doses. Bahia will receive 2.5 million doses, while Parana will have 2.1 million and Pernambuco 1.35 million, including the 350 intended for Ilha de Fernando de Noronha. Besides the 340,000 doses intended for the Federal District, CEME sent 55,000 doses to the Ministry of Health's Central West Coordination Department for vaccination in the Minas and Goias cities belonging to Brasilia's geoeconomic area. According to CEME, the other states and territories were allocated the following doses of antipolio vaccine: Acre, 75,000; Amazonas, 420,000; Roraima, 15,000; Anapa, 65,000; Para, 1 million; Maranhao, 1.2 million; Piaui, 700,000; Ceara, 1.7 million; Rio Grande do Norte, 400,000; Paraiba, 700,000; Alagoas, 550,000; Sergipe, 270,000; Mato Grosso do Sul, 290,000; Mato Grosso, 300,000; Goias, 850,000; Rondonia, 150,000; Santa Catarina, 700,000; Espirito Santo, 500,000; and Rio Grande do Sul, 1,550,000. [Text] [Rio de Janeiro O GLOBO in Portuguese 14 Oct 81 p 4] 8568

POLIO CASES CONFIRMED--Brasilia--Of the 260 suspected cases of poliomyelitis reported throughout the country this year, only 28 were confirmed by medical diagnoses and laboratory tests, according to Roberto Augusto Becker, director of the Ministry of Health's Division of Epidemiology; in his opinion, there will not be more than 100 confirmed cases by the end of this year. He said that the 28 confirmed cases occurred before August when the government was promoting the first phase of mass vaccination, achieving a 95.6 percent coverage against the disease in children 5 years of age and under. "With regard to the next phase, scheduled for 24 October," he said, "it is estimated that 19.2 million children through the age of 5 will be vaccinated." In this respect, Welfare and Social Security Minister Jair Soares prevailed upon Julio Dickstein, chairman of INAMPS [National Institute for Social Security Medical Assistance], to give all possible support to the team in charge of the second vaccination phase inasmuch as he considers it essential to have "perfect teamwork" among the institutions which provide health services and medical assistance. [Text] [Sao Paulo O ESTADO DE SAO PAULO in Portuguese 11 Oct 81 p 25] 8568

CSO: 5400/2018



## BRIEFS

HEMORRHAGIC CONJUNCTIVITIS CASES--More than 20 cases of hemorrhagic conjunctivitis have been treated in the Nicoya Social Security clinic, confirmed yesterday Dr Jorge Arturo Fonseca Renault, physician at that branch clinic. The physician stated that for 3 weeks persons have been treated--both as emergency patients and in consultation outside the clinic--for this type of disease affecting the eyes. He explained that the cases were initially treated as simple problems, but once the outbreak in Honduras, Surinam and Panama was completely described, and it was known that the disease is viral conjunctivitis, it is being treated as such. However, the Health Ministry sent a message to the Costa Rican Physicians' Society asking all of the members to report all cases of conjunctivitis treated, in order to evaluate the situation better. The Pan-American Health Organization (OPS) alerted the national medical authorities last week on the possibility that this outbreak could enter Costa Rica. According to the OPS message, there is no effective therapy unless the problem is bacterial, in which case antibiotics would have to be used. [Text] [San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 15 Sep 81 p 7-A] 9746

CSO: 5400/2002

EL SALVADOR

OFFICIAL CAMPAIGN AGAINST COFFEE RUST FAILED SAYS ACES

San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 21 Oct 81 p 3

[Text] "The campaign against coffee rust, begun with a great amount of publicity by the government, failed because of the incompetence of its directors, and we will begin to pay the consequences with the harvest that is about to be gathered," says the governing body of the Coffee Association of El Salvador.

In regard to this, it issued a communique which says:

"The campaign against coffee rust, begun with a great deal of publicity by the government, has been a complete failure. Instead of diminishing, the coffee tree disease has spread more extensively throughout the republic. The system that was used has not been effective. There is insufficient appropriate equipment and the little that is available has been poorly utilized because of lack of organizational planning. It is believed that the program must be thoroughly revised and that appropriate methods must be sought, so that we will not have to regret disastrous results. Once more we must publicly say that the governmental state control is not giving good results; the programs are costly; they are not constant; and no one takes the responsibility for seeking positive solutions for mistakes. We have learned that the oxychloride of copper that is being used is not as effective as the analysis requires and therefore it has not been successful in arresting the epidemic; but the expenditures will be charged to the producers' costs in spite of the results."

"It would be useful for the agricultural authorities to obtain information from Brazil on the system that is currently being used there, with results that are very well known. We do not understand, then, why they persist in something that does not offer certainty of success."

The coffee producers have cooperated in everything that has been proposed and notwithstanding this we emphasize that the campaign has failed because of the incompetence of its directors. Let us not blame the producers, who did no more than try to rescue the domestic coffee crop from a deplorable failure, with consequences that we will have to pay with the harvest that is about to be gathered. San Salvador, 20 October 1981. Coffee Association of El Salvador."

8255

CSO: 5400/2026

BRIEFS

CONJUNCTIVITIS CASES REPORTED--San Miguel, 11 Sep--Countless cases of viral, non-hemorrhagic conjunctivitis have been detected by health organizations in this city, reported a local physician. Asked if this disease could degenerate into hemorrhagic conjunctivitis, he answered yes, explaining that in addition to reddening of the eyes, the disease is manifested by bleeding about the mouth and nose, being extremely contagious. The physician added, in the way of prevention, that persons having children with reddened eyes should not apply lemon or eyewashes of any sort to their eyes, because this could aggravate the condition of the affected person. Conjunctivitis does not cause blindness, nor does it cast the eyelashes, as do other eye diseases. It lasts 3 days, at the end of which the virus producing it dies. In San Miguel one can now see many adolescents and adults wearing dark glasses in order to avoid light and solar reflections, which they consider harmful. [Text] [San Salvador EL MUNDO in Spanish 11 Sep 81 p 3] 9746

CONJUNCTIVITIS OUTBREAK IN ACAJUTLA--Epidemic "hemorrhagic conjunctivitis" is afflicting children and adults in this community. Health Department and Social Security clinics and doctors in Acajutla are treating the cases that are brought to them. It has been stated that the epidemic malady is temporary. The children who are afflicted with the malady are given priority treatment in the clinics. [Tdx] [San Salvador LA PRENSA GRAFICA in Spanish 10 Oct 81 p 4] 8255

CSO: 5400/2026

MAN HOSPITALIZED WITH CHOLERA IN SEINE-ET-MARNE

Paris LE FIGARO in French 24 Sep 81 p 14

[Article by Jacques Dubessy]

[Text] A man of some 50 years of age is currently hospitalized at Meaux with cholera. This is an exceptional case in France.

On 18 September, gendarmes of the Lizy-sur-Ourcq (Seine-et-Marne) brigade questioned a vagrant, Gustave Soyer, aged around 50, who was visibly under the influence of alcohol. But he also appeared to be ill and was put into a cell.

The next morning he showed no improvement and was transported to the Meaux CHU [University Hospital Center] by the fire brigade. After examining him several times, the doctors performed an analysis the result of which was definite: cholera.

The DASS [Departmental Directorate of Health and Social Services] immediately took the case in hand. Preventive steps were taken. Military physicians were alerted and prescribed the immediate inoculation of the gendarmes of the brigade and their families, as well as that of the firemen who had transported the man. As a precautionary measure, everything contained in the brigade's cells was destroyed.

Neither the hospital nor the DASS nor the gendarmerie would provide any information on this extremely rare case in France, for fear of alarming the population. If treated in time, cholera is actually not fatal. In fact, Gustav Soyer's case is no longer cause for concern.

The origin of the case still remains to be discovered. It will probably be very difficult, as the patient is classified SDF [of no fixed abode]. All of his movements will have to be traced and all of his contacts checked. Was the vagrant contaminated by a third person? Can he have contaminated others?

As of this date, no other suspected case has been reported.

Could the proximity of the Charles-de-Gaulle Airport at Roissy-en-France have had anything to do with the contamination of a man living under unsanitary conditions in the woods? That is difficult to say.

[Footnote to article, printed in boldface]: (Cholera is not serious unless the material means for treating it are lacking. The treatment includes, on the one hand, rehydration (by intravenous means) and, on the other hand, the administering of antibiotics. In France, there is no fear of a lack of these means. -- Dr M.V.)

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CSO: 5400/2009



HEALTH MINISTER: COUNTRY AT MERCY OF DENGUE

San Pedro Sula LA PRENSA in Spanish 15 Sep 81 p 2

[Text] Tegucigalpa--The Ministry of Public Health has been announcing that it is incapable of curbing an imminent attack of hemorrhagic dengue.

The agency will not be able to do anything against the dreadful disease because it does not have the necessary budgetary resources to take on even the simplest health problems facing us.

The general director of public health, Dr Anibal Villatorio, emphasized that fact, explaining that "there are no funds to combat hemorrhagic dengue, as there are none to remove the deficiencies of the Hospital School."

He made note of the alarming fact that this year's budget cuts of 17 million lempiras have had such negative effects that there are no resources available to handle even the smallest epidemics.

He asserted that preventive medicine is impossible in immunization against measles, whooping-cough and tetanus, which are among the most frequently encountered diseases here.

In conclusion, Villatorio said that there is a possibility that hemorrhagic dengue may reach Honduras from Cuba, and in the present situation that would be a real tragedy.

It can be inferred from these circumstances that in the future problems in health care could, as now, generate serious consequences for a country needing more attention in this field.

The official indicated that in the case of the Hospital School a large-scale investigation is under way to determine responsibilities and correct abnormalities.

In any case, he explained that if the practicing medical interns have planned a new strike, it cannot be avoided, because that state secretariat is without funds and cannot exceed the program.

He reminded that Health Minister Dr Juan Andonie Fernandez has been consulting with doctors for more than 1 month concerning improvements in the mentioned assistance center.

The general director of health commented on a series of errors occurring in that hospital. Among them he enumerated the purchase of machinery without spare parts and the lack of maintenance, which has left this administration a tragic and problematical inheritance.

He agreed that the mentioned hospital is a monstrosity without administrative capacity. As an example he cited the 1,200 existing beds, which represent no option for the management needed here.

Dr Anibal Villatorio believes that it is necessary to divide the assistance center into two groups and obtain economic support involving rehabilitation of human resources, because the present staff is poorly trained.

#### Vector Control

Economic restrictions have reached the point of paralyzing work by the Department of Vector Control in combating the mosquito "Aedes aegypti," dengue carrier.

Budget cuts in the Ministry of Finance and Credit have split the principal function of the Health Ministry, which along with education, ought to count on relatively generous financial support.

An example of that is the fact that the economic paralysis has precluded the mobilization of 400 employees who would be sent to different parts of the country to control the mosquito which carries the dreadful disease.

He added that the ministry has equipment, insecticide and personnel, but that means nothing when money is lacking for travelling expenses.

According to Anibal Villatorio, momentary relief is provided by the fact that there are no cases of hemorrhagic dengue in our country. That is, the announced outbreak of the disease is nothing more than rumor.

Faced with a situation like the present one, the general director of health said that as an immediate measure the help of the Finance Ministry is expected in providing travelling funds to personnel who will work to control "Aedes aegypti."

9746

CSO: 5400/2002

## BRIEFS

TROPICAL DISEASES IN HUNGARY--Between 1965-1980, a total of 14 persons brought malaria into Hungary; three of them died of the disease. To date, 27 persons have contracted malaria in 1981. Nowadays several thousand persons go for brief or extended stays in the tropics from Hungary. At the same time, more and more citizens of countries where tropical diseases are endemic spend time in Hungary because of Hungary's aid to developing nations. These factors have resulted in the organization of a Tropical Health Service which has been followed by establishment at Laszlo Hospital of a section for treating tropical diseases. Today, there is even a university department for study of tropical diseases which has recently graduated its first six students. Hungary now has 10 physicians who have passed examinations in the field of tropical medicine. Because symptoms typical of respiratory disease with high fever closely resemble malaria, the latter is often unsuspected. Faulty diagnosis has led to some deaths. While pre- and post-foreign tour checkups are mandatory for members of the diplomatic corps as well as those directly involved in foreign trade, members of TESCO [Office of Scientific and Technical Cooperation] have checkups only before departure. Furthermore, employees of Hungarocanion, the Hungarian company for international trucking, and a number of enterprises which enjoy foreign trade rights are not subject to examination. A few years ago a delegation went to Sudan on commission from the FAO. Although delegation members were warned not to bathe in fresh water rivers and lakes because of the danger of schistosomiasis, the advice was ignored and all 13 contracted the infection and had to be sent home. The Ministry of Health is now preparing a decree making screening for tropical disease mandatory for everyone regardless of the length of time spent in the tropics. [Summary] [Budapest MAGYAR HIRLAP in Hungarian 27 Oct 81 p 5]

CSO: 5400/3003

## BRIEFS

CHOLERA CASES--Gaza, 2 Nov--Eleven new cases of cholera were discovered last week in the Gaza Strip. Thus the number of cases discovered since the outbreak of the epidemic in the Gaza Strip has reached 150; only three are still in the hospital. Last week, another case of cholera was discovered each day so that the hopes for curbing the spread of the disease with the change of weather has not yet materialized. The ITIM correspondent in the Gaza Strip reports that for more than 3 months, since the first case of cholera was discovered, there were no reports of death. It will also be noted that most of the cases were discovered in the poor neighborhoods of the city, and only a few in the refugee camps. [Text] [TA021940 Tel Aviv ITIM in Hebrew 1750 GMT 2 Nov 81]

CSO: 5400/4704

## PARALYSIS CASES CAUSED BY 'BITTER' MANIOC CONSUMPTION

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 26 Oct 81 p 3

[Text] Over 1,000 cases of paralysis have been noted since last May in various areas of the province of Nampula, caused by poisoning from cyanide derivatives contained in a variety of manioc known as "bitter" or "Gurue type." No deaths have been registered so far, and about 20 percent of the patients will have a rapid and complete recovery in the local hospitals. The weekly DOMINGO published a report on this subject, stating that the outbreak of the disease, diagnosed as being of a tropical nature, has particularly affected the district of Memba, as well as, to a lesser degree, the districts of Erati, Nacala-Velha, Nacala-Porto and Monapo. This is a region that has been affected by a lack of rainfall for the past 2 years, creating a marked imbalance in nutrition.

Since this variety of manioc is a lot more resistant to drought, it has been used as one of the principal basic food products in the area. The "bitter" manioc must be soaked in water for a prolonged period of time in order to be used. The fact that other foodstuffs were not available and the soaking process was disregarded resulted in an abnormally high ingestion of the cyanide derivatives contained in the manioc.

Health authorities launched a campaign some weeks ago in order to prevent new cases, identify all the victims and initiate treatment. They are also cooperating with other organizations in order to receive the proper support in controlling the outbreak.

The first cases were diagnosed as polio. However, considering the excessive occurrence of the disease, as well as other symptoms, other hypotheses were discussed, with the right diagnosis finally emerging. However, this only took place at the beginning of October after the result of the analyses of various blood and urine samples that had been sent to Glasgow, Scotland, became known. These analyses showed a high level of cyanide in the organisms of the victims.

This disease, which is characterized by a progressive paralysis of the extremities, also affects speech and hearing in a more advanced stage. Its best treatment is improved diet and physical exercises.

The campaign launched by health authorities includes, therefore, the organization of an effort to improve the diet of the population in these areas and the establishment of rehabilitation centers in those areas with the highest incidence of the disease.



The first physical therapy center was established in Cava, in the Memba district. The weekly DOMINGO reports that "crutches and other equipment have been fashioned out of bamboo, wood and some imagination, and the results are already noticeable."

So that all the necessary support be urgently provided on a priority basis, the government of the Nampula province has declared the area affected by the disease a "calamity zone." Efforts are being undertaken to take care of the victims. These efforts include an appeal to the international community for support.

It is believed that the situation may be under control, since no new cases have been registered.

CSO: 5400/5646

# SWARMS OF MOSQUITOES ATTACK MAPUTO AFTER TEMPERATURE CHANGES

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 25 Sep 81 p 8

[Text] For some weeks, because of sudden temperature changes, swarms of mosquitoes have been invading Maputo and are alarming the people.

If more effective means are not taken to wipe out the mosquitoes, this infestation will last for several years in several areas of the city. According to a warning from the World Health Organization (WHO), the mosquito is still a danger to man.

According to doctors Almeida Franco and Frederico Braga, both WHO consultants in the Ministry of Health, this invasion of mosquitoes is the result of a sudden change in temperature recorded some weeks ago in the south of Mozambique. Following a hibernation period during the hot weather, the sudden rainfall followed by a rise in temperature caused an invasion of mosquitoes in the city. In the daytime, they lodged, among other places, in tin cans and bottles full of rainwater, mud puddles, roofs, in garden plots, and inside houses. At night, the mosquitoes' most active time, the female anopheles attacks its victims to suck the blood needed for the survival of its eggs.

An unprotected person bitten by an infected anopheles (which contains a sick person's blood) gets headaches, chills and fever which can go as high as 41° C after a period of 12-30 days.

## Destroy the Evil at Its Source

Asked about the possibility of combating the mosquito by fumigation, Dr Almeida Franco replied:

"First of all, fumigation yields only temporary results. Secondly, it is too expensive for the country's resources, for we estimate that we would have to spend around 180,000 dollars annually (around 7,200 contos) to import the chemical products. Moreover, it would necessitate the presence of specialized personnel."

According to both consultants, the next most effective means for combating the mosquito is the anti-larval combat.

Dr Oscar Monteiro, head of the Prophylaxis and Medical Examination Center, described to our reporters what measures he would take to fight the larvae (the first stage of growth during which the mosquito does not yet have wings).

"The brigades from the center go to the breeding places of mosquito larvae and spread a grease film over the water to suffocate them. Then the film is burned with a petroleum solution."

Asked about the efficiency of the brigades, the WHO consultants said that they "are skilled in destroying small breeding places (pools of water which exist temporarily or permanently even outside the rainy season). But in the field of preventive medicine, the work is useless because it does not eliminate the large breeding places, which is possible only with large-scale work."

Also according to both consultants, malaria will be entirely wiped out in our country with "dirt-fills, correction of stagnant water courses, drainage which, in short, constitutes the sanitation of the environment."

#### Most Important Localities

The area around FACIM [Maputo International Fair] has one of the greatest concentration of mosquitoes because of the pastureland and stagnant pools nearby. The problem is intensified by the fact that some inhabitants have felled eucalyptus trees for firewood. We must bear in mind that the eucalyptus tree absorbs 30 cubic meters (30,000 liters) of water in damp terrain, which constitutes one of the solutions for the vast region flooded with water.

The Polana, Costa do Sol, Malanga, Luis Cabral, Vale do Infulene, Inhagoia are other permanent breeding grounds. The area around the airport and the Xipamanine area are city localities with large concentrations of mosquitoes.

#### Education Imperative

"Right now, some work is of paramount importance and within the people's reach to wipe out malaria to some extent. Among these," Almeida Franco told NOTICIAS reporters, "is sanitary education to explain the danger of stagnant water, untilled tracts of land, vegetable garden plots in the city (where depositing of any anti-larval substance is becoming impossible), tin cans, broken bottles among other shady places where the mosquito is found and proliferates to attack at night."

The people can also dig small ditches to drain off the water collected in puddles created by rains, for, although the water usually evaporates, the mosquito can reach the adult stage.

8870

CSO: 5400/5620

## BRIEFS

CASSAVA POISONING--The number of victims of tropical neuropathy, a disease caused by the so-called bitter cassava in Nampula Province, is decreasing considerably according to the national director for preventive medicine, Jorge Cabral. This disease can result in paralysis, blindness, deafness and dumbness. Between May and November, 1,090 cases of tropical neuropathy were recorded. [Text] [EA080132 Maputo Domestic Service in Portuguese 1030 GMT 7 Nov 81]

BLINDNESS INCIDENCE IN TETE--I am astonished at the situation prevailing in the provincial capital of Tete. Blindness has attacked more than 100 persons there. I don't know what causes it, in spite of the fact that many people are aware it is a disease. I would therefore suggest that: 1. Hospital authorities study this type of disease to find out what its origin is and combat it before it affects 1,000 persons. 2. An attempt should be made to prohibit the consumption of the traditional drink called "cachaca" (cheap brandy). It is a sad spectacle to see in the streets of Tete many of these blind people in a group of 10 or 12 led by a 10- or 11-year old child. And what is worse, is that unfeeling people pay them no attention when the blind persons greet them. [Signed] Bernabe Romao A. Alipundene, Songo. [Excerpt] [Maputo TEMPO in Portuguese 18 Oct 81 pp 48-49]

CSO: 5400/5640

## BILHARZIA CHOLERA CONTROL MEASURES URGED

Johannesburg RAND DAILY MAIL in English 19 Oct 81 p 3

[Article by Ada Stuijt: "Bilharzia Expert's Clean Water Appeal"]

[Text]

A BILHARZIA researcher based in Nelspruit charges that at least 2-million rural blacks — mostly children — harbour the parasites, and says the Government should divert spending on big rural hospitals to provide clean, treated water supplies.

Dr R J Pitchford told the Mail in an interview: "The money would be better spent on creating safe water supplies for the entire rural, mostly black, population — clean, safe water would eradicate most of the reasons for those big hospitals."

"Generally speaking, almost the entire rural population in infected areas over the age of five years has or has had both human forms of the disease."

When the parasite enters a human host, it may cause inflammation of any area of the skin, acute liver inflammation, and even more serious illness when the central nervous system or lungs are involved.

The characteristic feature of bilharzia is blood in the urine, which appears 10 to 12 weeks after exposure.

**Vicious circle**

The number of heavily-infected people increases because the parasite creates a vicious cycle.

It infects a human host from infested water, returns to water through human excreta, where the snail host is found for breeding purposes — and from there goes back to the water and then to a human host.

Dr Pitchford, who has researched bilharzia at his small research station in Nelspruit since 1954, commented: "Controlling bilharzia is purely a question of creating clean water supplies for all those people living in the infected areas."

"I realise that it would be extremely expensive,

## Vast project is needed to beat feared parasite

but once the Government mounted such a long-range, massive programme, all those big, expensive hospitals will be far less necessary. Most rural health problems stem from a lack of clean, treated water.

"In the long run, it would be much cheaper ..."

**Cholera outbreak**

Water-borne infections, such as bilharzia, cholera and malaria, are on the increase in South Africa.

The most recent cholera outbreak — in Temba, Bophuthatswana — highlighted the need for rural blacks to have access to alternative, clean water supplies.

The Rand Daily Mail pinpointed the serious

shortage of treated water in Temba last month when four people died and hundreds were hospitalised.

Hundreds of thousands of people continue using the infected water of the Apies River in the area because no other water source is available to them.

The widely held belief that bilharzia is only found in rivers flowing east into the Indian Ocean — and is absent from the rivers flowing west into the Atlantic Ocean — is fallacious, according to Dr Pitchford.

"The infection may be contracted in tributaries of the Vaal flowing past places such as Potchefstroom, Klerksdorp and Schweizer-Reineke.

"The Vaal River catchment is thus not free of infection. However, up to the present the Orange River Valley has remained free of bilharzia."

CSO: 5400/5633-E



## FARMERS JOIN FIGHT AGAINST CHOLERA

Johannesburg THE CITIZEN in English 16 Oct 81 p 5

[Article by Keith Abendroth]

[Text]

**THE South African Agricultural Union is to co-operate closely with the various State departments involved in a master plan to put an end to the threat of cholera epidemics.**

Chemists of the Board for the Development of Peri-urban areas were yesterday doing exhaustive tests on water in the Apies River, source of the latest cholera outbreak in Bophuthatswana, less than 100 km north-west of Pretoria.

By yesterday 300 cholera patients had been admitted since the beginning of the month to the Jubilee Hospital in Tembisa.

Dr Gerald Maian, medical superintendent of the hospital, said it was feared that the disease was spreading. People had been admitted from the Swartdam area, some distance from the polluted Apies River.

In Pretoria, health authorities warned against panic and said there was little chance of the disease spreading to the city as water supplies in the city were chlorinated.

A spokesman for the Agricultural Union said that an action plan had been dis-

cussed with the Department of Agriculture and Fisheries as well as the Department of Health, Welfare and Pensions.

These departments had sought the help of the Agricultural Union in considering measures which would control the cholera epidemic and improve the infrastructure on farms so that large scale outbreaks of cholera and similar diseases could be controlled more rapidly in future.

At present cholera was largely fought by identifying contaminated water sources and carriers of the disease and the isolation of these sources.

But these measures had not had the desired effect during the recent epidemic and immunisation against the disease was only 30 to 50 percent effective, and also for only three months at a time.

Accordingly it had been decided to solve the problem by providing hygienic water to farm labourers, improving sanitary facilities and providing better housing.

It was hoped that housing for farm labourers was hopefully to be made more flexible, providing an allowance of R200 for water provi-

sion and R300 for electricity, with the aim that a bigger subsidised loan for these services would serve as an incentive for the construction of common buildings.

The union was also asking that farms smaller than 25 ha on which no livestock was kept, should qualify for the subsidy paid by the Department of Water Affairs on the drilling of boreholes because well protected boreholes were a safe water source.

## BRIEFS

TYPHOID REPORTED--Medani, Oct 1 (SUNA)--Some cases of typhoid were reported in Rufaa, about 45 km. to the north of here. The situation is quite satisfactory and the infections were contained, according to the Regional Ministry of Health Director. [Text] [Khartoum SUNA DAILY BULLETIN in English 1 Oct 81 p 3]

CSO: 5400/5001

# ANTHRAX OUTBREAK, DEATH

Dar es Salaam DAILY NEWS in English 4 Nov 81 p 3

[Text]

THE whole area of Dodoma Rural District, was put under provisional veterinary quarantine yesterday due to an outbreak of anthrax.

According to a veterinary notice issued here yesterday and signed by the Regional Livestock Development Officer, Ndugu P.N.J. Minja, all livestock markets in the district have also been closed until further notice.

The outbreak was reported last week in the areas of Chipanga, Makangw'a and Itiso divisions where unconfirmed reports said that one man in Chipanga 'A' area had died of anthrax and two are receiving treatment at the Chipanga Health Centre. It was also reported that seven people are receiving treatment at Manzase Health Centre in

Makangw'a Division and several others at Haneti Village in Itiso Division.

The affected are reported to have eaten meat of the infected animals.

The outbreak, which caught the veterinary division in the region by surprise, is likely to spread to the Dodoma Urban District which supplies meat to the capital of Dodoma.

The Urban District is surrounded by the anthrax infected areas where most of the cattle come from for auction in the suburbs of the capital.

An official of the Regional Development Directorate told SAIHARA later in an interview that veterinary officials in the region were being mobilised to contain the disease.

CSO: 5400/5642

## BRIEFS

MEASLES DEATHS--Montevideo, 21 Oct (TELAM)--Leonel Perez Moreira, head of the epidemic department of the Public Health Ministry, disclosed here today that the epidemic of measles which appeared in Artigas Department a few months ago has already killed 43 persons and that the number of affected persons has not been determined yet. As a consequence the government has started a massive vaccination with the help of the armed forces, police, students, and others. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1510 GMT 21 Oct 81 PY]

CSO: 5400/2029

ARGENTINA

BRIEFS

TRICHINOSIS IN RIO CALLEGOS--Rio Callegos, 24 Oct (TELAM)--In compliance with an order by federal judge Federico Manuel Pinto Kramer members of the prefecture of this city sacrificed 176 pigs affected by trichinosis. [Buenos Aires TELAM in Spanish 1600 GMT 24 Oct 81 PY]

CSO: 5400/2033

# FOOT-AND-MOUTH DISEASE REAPPEARS IN VARIOUS AREAS

## Moamba, Magde Outbreaks

Maputo NOTICIAS in Portuguese 2 Oct 81 p 3

[Excerpts] The outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease that had been under control for the past two months has reappeared in the Moamba and Magde districts. According to the provincial director for agriculture in Maputo, the disease has spread because standing regulations have been ignored. An investigation has already begun to determine the area affected and the responsibilities involved.

This is an epidemic disease that has spread from the Kruger Park game preserve in neighboring South Africa, which borders on the district of Moamba in the province of Maputo. Despite all the measures that were adopted, the disease has spread, affecting the districts of Magde and Moamba. One of the measures restricted the circulation of animals in the affected areas, in addition to the massive vaccination of cattle.

In order to inform peasants and cattle raisers about the effects of this disease, the DPA [Provincial Directorate of Agriculture] has launched an enlightenment campaign, with the support of party, government and mass organization elements. The campaign is aimed at alerting peasants, once again, to the need of strictly adhering to control measures in order to prevent the spread of the disease.

"The supply of fresh meat has not been affected, and foot-and-mouth disease does not affect humans," the director for agriculture told us in Maputo.

Acknowledging that the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease has brought about the closing of cattle markets, this official added that this has been compensated by markets in the province of Gaza, where a serious fight has been taking place to isolate the disease. It is hoped that with the beginning of the rainy season, the situation will improve, since there is a strong possibility that the virus will die of itself.

A number of measures are also being adopted to prevent cattle growers from breaking the "cordons sanitaires," as recently happened in the area of Sabia in the district of Moamba.



### Marromeu Outbreak

Maputo DOMINGO in Portuguese No 4, 4 Oct 81 p 2

[Excerpt] A foot-and-mouth disease outbreak is affecting at this time the Marromeu district in the province of Sofala. The circulation of cattle in and out of this area has been forbidden.

It is expected that as a result, the supply of meat to Beira will become problematic.

Observers believe that the outbreak of foot-and-mouth disease in the district of Marromeu was caused by the purchase of cattle by the Sena Sugar Estates company in the district of Caia. An investigation is being conducted to determine the origins of the problem.

CSO: 5400/5643

DIARRHEA KILLS HOGS IN BEIRA; ANTIDOTE PROPOSED

Hogs Decimated

Beira DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE in Portuguese 10 Oct 81 pp 10, 12

[Excerpts] The lack of vaccines and other medicines may be the reason for the unavailability of pork in Beira butcher shops, a fact which is of great concern to the public. This was the statement made by a number of hog farmers in the surrounding area of this city and by some people directly concerned with this question.

In one of our tours in the areas of Inhamizua, we met Agostinho Dias, an older Portuguese man who has been living in Mozambique with his family for many years. He owns a farm that we had visited some time ago, when he had spoken to us about his plans.

As he received us, he began to talk about his preoccupations and he led us to his pens. We were confronted with a sad situation. Females in the pens were desperately attempting to nurse their piglets, but in vain. On the ground, there were stains of a greenish liquid, the diarrhea that has attacked them. They all look very bad, presenting an almost cadaverous appearance.

"Look, this year more than 300 piglets died of this disease, which has affected many other pens. I can't even remember how many still-born piglets we have had, when the females were pregnant. We have no vaccines, no medicines, no veterinary assistance. This is a very serious problem," Agostinho Dias told us.

In almost all the other farms we visited, large or small, the same problem was presented to us, in various forms. Only one farmer told us that he had some medicines, which he said he had obtained through a friend in Maputo. The mortality rate is almost always more than 100 [as published] because of disease and still births.

Possible Antidote

Beira DIARIO DE MOCAMBIQUE in Portuguese 10 Oct 81 p 10

[Excerpt] Americo Baptista da Costa, a hog farmer with more than 1,000 animals in his farm in Savane, has discovered an antidote to combat diarrhea in piglets that causes their death, as has happened with most of the other hog farmers we contacted.

It is lime. According to him, treatment with this produce is indeed simple: adding 1 percent of lime to the food of the females before they are put in the same pen with the males. The treatment is continued even during the gestation and the nursing periods. In Americo Costa's pens, there is no diarrhea. The only disease that has affected the piglets is scabies. As with diarrhea, this disease is caused by the lack of medicines and vitamins, poor nutrition and the lack of products to combat flies.

In a meeting with Eduardo Lisboa, of the provincial directorate of agriculture in Sofala, we were told that the lack of medicines derives from the fact that this year, the number of hog farmers has increased; plans had been made initially to supply only the existing ones.

CSO: 5400/5640

## VETERINARY RESEARCH INSTITUTE PRODUCES LIVESTOCK VACCINES

Lusaka TIMES OF ZAMBIA in English 27 Oct 81 p 1

[Text]

THE newly established Veterinary Research Institute in Lusaka has produced the first local livestock and poultry vaccines.

Minister of State for Agriculture and Water Development Mr Noah Dilamoni has praised the institute for its achievement and its determination to become self-sufficient in the vaccines.

Mr Dilamoni was speaking to members of staff at the institute and their families to mark the 17th anniversary of Independence.

He was pleased the institute had applied itself seriously to its objectives and that the benefits were reaching the entire farming community.

He reminded scientists working at the institute that although the Department of Veterinary and Tsetse Control had outposts throughout the

country, the institute must liaise with field officers.

It was through such co-ordinated efforts that research results could be applied to the advantage of farmers.

The ministry was anxious to solve various problems the institute was facing. And already K10,000 has been deposited with the Department of Water Affairs for drilling a borehole and for cleaning an old borehole at the institute.

Meanwhile, Zana reports: Two executives of the International Imperial Chemicals Industries (ICI) from London arrived in Lusaka yesterday to make arrangements for trials of the new electrodyn sprayer for control of application of crop protection chemicals.

The electrodyn sprayer puts more of the active chemical on target crop than any other

system available.

The executives, Dr David Jones and Dr Makom Ogilvy, said they would hold talks with officials from Mount Makulu and Magoye research stations and Lintco.

Dr Ogilvy, head of product development and technical service, said ICI had developed a unique combination of bottle plus nozzle, the "bottle" containing ready formulated chemicals for immediate application to the crop.

The new system was suitable for cotton growing in Africa and already trial programmes have been successful and the first supplies of hand held electrodyn sprayers will be available this year.

Trials have been carried out in Nigeria, Kenya, Tanzania and soon would be extended to Zimbabwe, Malawi and Mozambique.

CSO: S400/S650

# CAMPAIGN AGAINST MONILIA INCREASES CACAO CROP

San Jose LA NACION in Spanish 13 Sep 81 p 2-A

[Text] Combating the disease called monilia has contributed to a significant increase in cacao production in the southern zone, mainly through work in pruning away shade and attention to the plantations, according to the Ministry of Agriculture and Cattle (MAG).

Eleven months after starting control measures cacao plantation owners declared that their harvests are better than before the appearance of the disease.

The engineer Fernando Ocampo Aguilar, regional MAG director in Perez Zeledon, noted that it was on 26 September of last year that producer Agapito Olivares Orozco arrived at the Golfito Agricultural Extension Service with some cacao beans affected by monilia.

MAG officials began the control campaign the following 1 October, and they have achieved the results now shown by producers.

According to Ocampo, one of the measures put into effect in the campaign was cutting the fruit in the plantations and burying it 1 meter deep.

"Thanks to control measures, cacao growers who applied them are now obtaining better harvests than before, and that is due to cutting away shade and attending to the cacao plantations," said Ocampo.

With the goal of offering assistance to growers whose plantations are affected by monilia, and of learning the total area sowed in cacao in the south, the "Basic Plan for Controlling Monilia in the Brunca Region" was put into effect. This plan also considered other cacao diseases in that zone.

The plan was developed by the engineer Joaquin Gonzalez, program chief for monilia control in the Pacific Sur region. The plan consists of three parts: establishment of demonstration parcels on growers' holdings, searching out the area of the region encompassing cacao plantations, and a campaign to inform growers and make them aware of the importance of practicing the technical recommendations for combating the disease.

Gonzalez stated that there are now 31 demonstration parcels distributed throughout the entire southern lowland zone. This stage ended last Friday.

The second stage, the search, began the 31st of last August and will end 2 November. The last stage began with the distribution of technical bulletins, and soon it will be complemented by a publicity campaign in which the regional radio stations will be used.

Also, the engineer Gerardo Jimenez, cacao specialist for the Perez Zeledon Agricultural Center, reported that they are fulfilling a program of distributing hybrid seeds, so that growers in the zone can renew their cacao plantations and sow other areas.

He affirmed that they have distributed 70,000 seeds, and they hope that they can place a similar quantity by the end of the year.

In Costa Rica there are 20,000 hectares in cacao, with a production of 8,000 tons. Producers receive about 22 colons per kilo.

9746

CSO: 5400/2002



BRIEFS

STINKING LOCUSTS INVASION--A meeting organized by Bernard Beda Achy in the electoral district of Akoupe and Affery determined the needs that will foster a balanced development in these two areas. A significantly decreased production was noted in the field of agriculture, the economic sector that offers the most employment to the rural population. Proposals that resulted from the meeting stress the need to give renewed impetus to government initiatives in order to compensate rapidly for decreased income, such as regeneration of old plants, introduction of high-yield varieties, new cultures, etc. Meanwhile, peasants are hoping that the fight against stinking locusts will be undertaken soon. These insects have invaded the plantations in this area of the subregion and have started to ravage the trees in the eastern zone of Adzope. The invasion of these small insects is perceived by planters as a scourge which can perhaps only be eliminated through a vigorous intervention by the government. [Excerpts]  
[Abidjan FRATERNITE MATIN in French 18 Oct 81 p 8]

CSO: 5400/5644

## GRAIN BORER SPREADING THROUGHOUT TABORA REGION

Salisbury THE SUNDAY MAIL in English 1 Nov 81 p 4

[Text] AN INSECT not previously seen in Africa is devouring food and property in central Tanzania and has made famine there almost a certainty, according to a team of British entomologists sent to identify the pest.

Mr David Masanja, principal secretary in the Tanzanian Ministry of Agriculture, said yesterday: "We're doing everything we can to isolate the area and follow the recommendations of the British experts."

"The situation is serious."

The pest was identified two weeks ago by experts from Britain's Tropical Products Institute sent to Tanzania by the British Government after local efforts at identification failed.

The entomologists said the insect, which has spread throughout the Tabora region, in west central Tanzania, is *prostephanus truncatus*, commonly known as the greater grain borer.

A survey of villages in the region by the British team showed that 30 per cent of stored maize had already been devoured, and that silos, wooden farming tools and household utensils were also

being eaten. "Widespread famine is a certainty," the report said.

Mr Masanja said reports were being made to contain the pest by stopping maize and other grains from being moved out of the region of about 800 000 people.

Grain stores in Tabora were being sprayed and surrounding regions and neighbouring countries had been warned to look out for the insect, he said.

Diplomats estimate that up to 40 000 tonnes of

maize will be needed to prevent famine in Tabora.

The insect was first noticed in the region more than a year ago and, apparently because it is relatively large and fast-moving, was given the name "Scania" by local farmers who thought it resembled the heavy-duty Swedish trucks assembled in Tanzania.

Previously the pest had been known only in Central America and parts of the United States and was

nowhere considered a very serious problem.

"But for some reason in Tabora it has thrived," said an American agronomist following the situation. "It is multiplying and gobbling up everything." — Ziana-Reuters.

CSO: 5400/5645

## INTENSIVE EFFORT TO SAVE 200,000 HECTARES RICE HEAVILY INFESTED WITH PESTS

Hanoi NHAN DAN in Vietnamese 27 Sep 81 p 1

[Article: "Effectively Prevent, Control Infestations of Brown Leafhoppers by Early October, of Rice Caseworms, Army Worms To Save 10th-Month Rice"]

[Text] (VNA) According to the Plant Protection Department (Ministry of Agriculture), owing to many active prevention and control campaigns the North now has only some 200,000 hectares of rice heavily affected by pests, particularly rice caseworms, brown leafhoppers and rats. Pests threat to cut down rice productivity and volume of production and require localities to continually step up prevention and control. According to projections, brown leafhopper infestation may recur in early October. A number of areas of early 10th-month rice are being affected by rice caseworms. Army worms may affect large areas in October.

After inspecting a number of places, the Plant Protection Department has advised localities and cooperatives to focus attention on consolidating and properly using plant protection units to promptly detect, to correctly classify and assess the age of harmful insects, and to carry out prevention and control measures in line with the guidance of technical cadres.

Experiences from a number of places show that notwithstanding shortages of insecticides and spraying tanks in the face of spreading pests, the prevention and control work is highly efficient and economical--with speedy and thorough extermination of pests and limited damages--in localities where areas in need of spraying are correctly delimited, and where sprayings are done at the right time, the right spot (rice-plant roots or tops depending upon the age of harmful insects) and with the right concentrate.

Rice caseworms, mostly larvae, will also appear in early October on tardy rice-plants, concentrating mainly on areas of late transplanted Nong Nghiep 22, Moc Tuyen, dwarf Bao Thai and glutinous rice varieties. The localities are using nets and lamps to catch egg-laying butterflies and are spraying eggs as well as larvae with Volfatok 666 to destroy them.

During the last days of September the localities are placing sour-sweet poisonous baits to attract and destroy army worm butterflies. During the first 5 days of October, they should promptly exterminate larvae of ages 1 and 2 laid on rice-plant blossoms by spraying insecticides, or by shaking the rice heads to let insects fall into a receiving vessel or basket previously lined with a plastic

sheet. When they reach age 3 (from about 10 October onward), the insects descend into the roots during the day, making it possible for us to hold riceplant leaves apart and spray insecticide on the roots, or to pick up insects by hand. It is advisable to exterminate army worms before 5 October, at which time they are at ages 1 and 2 and consequently easier to be eliminated; and we must strive to basically solve the army worm infestation before 10 October, thus preventing them from advancing toward ages 3 and 4 and acquiring strong destructive power.

Following 2 intensive anti-pest campaigns, Bac Thai has saved 20,000 hectares of 10th-month rice. Riceplants now are luxuriant once again.

Anti-pest campaign guidance committees in the districts have mobilized all labor forces and means to save rice, combining specialized cooperative anti-pest units with cooperative members' families to exterminate harmful insects and protect contractual fields around the clock. The province has supplied districts with an additional 43 tons of kerosene and 500 spraying tanks. The districts have exterminated pests with many manual measures and indigenous medicinal plants. All districts have achieved good results with their campaign to entrap butterflies with kerosene lamps.

Sowing and transplanting of 10th-month rice and upland rice in Ha Tuyen have nearly fulfilled the plan and have increased over last year's 10th-month rice season by 2.8 percent. Owing to extra weeding and fertilizing work, riceplant growth is uniformly vigorous on 3,000 hectares throughout the province, where 10th-month rice was tardily transplanted as a result of drought and flooding.

The province has mobilized a large number of cooperative members to go to upland fields to exterminate all kinds of pests, rodents and mealy bugs on more than 8,600 hectares of rice. As of 10 September, more than 50 percent of rice areas has been saved from pests.

As of mid-September, A Luoi District (Binh Tri Thien) has completed the first weeding and has begun the second weeding on more than 1,220 hectares of strewn rice; it has completed planting on schedule of more than 380 hectares of manioc, 140 hectares of potatoes, 150 hectares of corn, and nearly 200 hectares of industrial crops and short-term food crops. In recent days, owing to sunny and warm weather harmful insects and diseases have developed; however, the villages of Hong Quang, A Ngo, A Dot, Hong Ha and A Roang have timely sprayed insecticide on tens of hectares of infested rice.

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